

PUGET SOUND

National Estuary Program

WRIA 1 Coordinated & Integrated Outreach & Education Program

Overview

The purpose of the WRIA 1 Coordinated and Integrated Outreach and Education Program is to develop and implement a coordinated and integrated outreach and communication strategy that addresses Whatcom ecosystem recovery plan elements including water supply, water quality, floodplains, Chinook, and streamflow. In addition to developing a communication strategy that addresses plan elements, approaches to implementing actions will include leveraging existing outreach efforts, collaborating with and supporting Whatcom Watersheds Information Network (WWIN), and implementing a small grants program that addresses outreach for specific topics and/or audiences.

Measurable Objectives

The objectives for this grant are:

- Conduct community outreach to provide better understanding of perspectives, levels of understanding and priorities around the topics of Chinook, stream flow, habitat and land cover as well as information on the types of solutions and incentives that are most supported by the community.
- Develop and implement a communication strategy that incorporates outcomes of the community outreach, local recovery plan elements and priorities, and supports progress and implementation of the WRIA 1 WMB strategies, progress on local Near Term Actions, and supports other complementary WRIA 1 programs.
- Organize and implement a total of four WWIN training and membership events over two years (2021-2022) with a summary report and evaluation for each event.
- Organize and sponsor a minimum of two WWIN Speaker Series events covering Whatcom LIO recovery plan priorities and support planning for the annual Whatcom Water Week event (2021-2022)
- Re-establish the Whatcom Assistance Program to provide small grants to implement on the ground activities or actions for community outreach and engagement that support topics, priorities, and/or ecosystem components in the Whatcom LIO ecosystem recovery plan.



Seasons of Water Category -2019 Whatcom Water Weeks Photo Contest South Fork Snow Salmon by Kelly McVicker

Partner Engagement

Inherent in the WRIA 1 structure is engagement of many of the partners that will be involved with implementing the NTA and developing the communication strategy. In addition to the WRIA 1 Management Board (WMB), which consists of the Lummi Nation, Nooksack Indian Tribe, Whatcom County, Bellingham, Blaine, Everson, Ferndale, Lynden, Nooksack, Sumas, PUD No. 1 of Whatcom County, and WA Dept. of Fish & Wildlife, the structure includes work groups, staff teams, and a management team, state agencies, and agriculture. The WMB is also the Lead Entity for salmon recovery in WRIA 1 and in addition to the previous listed representative entities, the salmon recovery technical staff team includes the land trust, regional fisheries enhancement group, conservation district, and U.S. Forest Service.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

Stakeholders and general public can engage and provide feedback through public outreach opportunities to and at WRIA 1 Management Team and Board meetings, and public events sponsored through WWIN. Community feedback will also be solicited through established committees, public postings on the WRIA 1 website and other opportunities identified through development of the communication strategy.

Lead Agency for the Project

The PUD No. 1 of Whatcom County is acting as agent for the WRIA 1 Management Board, and is responsible for fiscal management and reporting.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Rebecca Schlotterback, PUD No. 1 of Whatcom County
Rebeccas@pudwhatcom.org
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